

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case in which a diffusion layer of a nickel-phosphorus alloy is formed at a surface on the inner side of the battery case.

2. (currently amended) A-The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case of claim 1 in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a-said diffusion layer of a nickel-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the inner side, and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the outer side of the battery case.

3. (currently amended) A-The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case of claim 1 in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer, a nickel layer is formed as an intermediate layer and a-said diffusion layer of a nickel-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the inner side, and an iron-nickel diffusion layer

is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the outer side of the battery case.

4. (currently amended) A The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the diffusion layer of the nickel-phosphorus alloy contains Ni₃P.

5. (currently amended) A The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the thickness of the nickel-phosphorus alloy is within a range from 0.1 to 2 μm.

6. (currently amended) A The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the phosphorus content in the nickel-phosphorus alloy is within a range from 1 to 12% by weight.

7. (original) A surface treated steel sheet for a battery case, in which a diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed at the surface on the inner side of the battery case.

8. (currently amended) A The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case of claim 1 in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a said

diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the inner side, and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the outer side of a battery case.

9. (currently amended) A-The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case of claim 1 in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer, a nickel layer is formed as an intermediate layer, and a-said diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the inner side, and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer at the surface on the outer side of the battery case.

10. (currently amended) A-The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, wherein the thickness of the nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is within a range from 0.1 to 2 μm .

11. (currently amended) A-The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 10~~ claim 7, wherein the cobalt content is within a range from 5 to 30% by weight and the phosphorus content is within the

range from 1 to 12% by weight in the nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy.

12. (original) A battery case in which a diffusion layer of a nickel-phosphorus alloy is formed on the inner side.

13. (currently amended) A-The battery case of claim 12 in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a said nickel-phosphorus alloy layer is formed as an upper layer on the inner side and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer on the outer side.

14. (currently amended) A-The battery case of claim 12 in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer, a nickel layer is formed as an intermediate layer and a said nickel-phosphorus alloy layer is formed as an upper layer on the inner side and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer on the outer.

15. (currently amended) A-The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 12 to 14 claim 12, wherein the diffusion layer of the nickel-phosphorus alloy contains Ni₃P.

16. (currently amended) A-The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to any one of claims 12 to 15 claim 12, wherein the phosphorus content in the nickel-phosphorus alloy is within a range from 1 to 12% by weight.

17. (original) A battery case in which a diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed on the inner side.

18. (currently amended) A-The battery case according to claim 17 in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a-said diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer on the inner side and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer on the outer side.

19. (currently amended) A-The battery case according to claim 17 in which an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer, a nickel layer is formed as an intermediate layer and a diffusion layer of a nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy is formed as an upper layer on the inner side and an iron-nickel diffusion layer is formed as a lower layer and a nickel layer is formed as an upper layer on the outer side.

20. (currently amended) A-The surface treated steel sheet for a battery case according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 19~~ claim 17, wherein the cobalt content is within a range from 5 to 30% by weight and the phosphorus content is within a range from 1 to 12% by weight in the nickel-cobalt-phosphorus alloy.

21 (currently amended) A-The battery case according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 20~~ claim 12, which is obtained by a drawing forming method, DI forming method or DTR forming method.

22. (currently amended) A-The battery using a battery case according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 21~~ claim 12 and filling a positive electrode active substance and a negative electrode active substance to the inside of the battery case.